

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al. )

- AGAINST - )

ARAKI, S.D.A.C., et al. )

A F F I D A V I T.

I, SATOMI, Hajime, alias LEE MING, do swear on my conscience that the following is true:

In September or October of 1937, I went to Shanghai as a newspaper man. I had previously been in Tientsin.

Lt. Colonel Sanetake KUSUMOTO asked me in January or February 1938 if I would sell a large amount of opium for the Tokumu Bu. He told me this opium was en route from Persia. The Tokumu Bu was part of the staff of the Commander of the Japanese Military Forces in China. Its function was to handle the political, economic and cultural problems in the zones occupied by the Japanese Military Forces. This lot of opium arrived in Shanghai in the spring of 1938. It was stored in the military warehouses on the wharves used by the military forces. Both the wharves and the storehouses were under military guard. Persian opium comes in a chest of 160 pounds per chest or 1920 liang per chest.

When the opium arrived from Persia, I began selling it in small lots to the Chinese opium merchants. When I received an order from a merchant for opium, I would send a subordinate to the Tokumu Bu who would issue an order to the warehouse to release so much opium to my subordinate. The latter would remove the opium from the warehouse and deliver it to the merchant, the time and place having previously been decided upon. Payment was made by the merchant at the time of delivery of the opium. The money which I received from the sale of this opium was deposited in the Bank of Taiwan in my own account. Once or twice a month I made a report to Lt. Colonel KUSUMOTO. The price at which I sold the opium was determined in a conference between the staff of Tokumu Bu and me. I informed them what the market price was at that time and indicated to them the price at which I would sell the opium. This procedure the Tokumu Bu approved. At the direction of the Tokumu Bu, I paid from the money accumulated in my account the original cost price to the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, and after deducting my own expenses paid the balance of the money to the Tokumu Bu. From the time of the arrival of this shipment of opium from Persia until the formation of the Restoration Government in March 1939, I sold the opium to the Chinese opium merchants and paid over the proceeds in the manner outlined above.

With the establishment of the Restoration Government, the office of the Tokumu Bu in Shanghai was dissolved, but there was established a



branch office of the Ko-A-In, whose function was to handle the political, economic and cultural matters of the Japanese Government in the occupied areas of China. Lt. Colonel KUSUMOTO became Vice-Chief of the Ko-A-In Branch at Shanghai. The Economic Section of the Ko-A-In was in charge of opium and narcotics. The Ko-A-In decided to turn over the handling of opium to the Restoration Government. The latter organized a General Opium Amelioration Bureau under the Home Ministry. For the distribution of opium itself, there was organized the Hung Chi Shan Tang. ( ) which was a commercial company whose shareholders were eight large opium hongs. Mr. CHU, the Head of the Opium Amelioration Bureau, requested that I take the post of Vice-President of the Hung Chi Shan Tang. There was no president. The charter and regulations of the Hung Chi Shan Tang were written by the Ko-A-In after discussions with the Restoration Government. I was able to accept this position as Vice-President because of the approval of the Ko-A-In. The Opium Amelioration Bureau issued a special permit to Hung Chi Shan Tang for the distribution of opium. The unsold opium which the Tokumu Bu had had was turned over by them to the Ko-A-In, who in turn gave it to the Opium Amelioration Bureau. Towards the end of 1939 the Hung Chi Shan Tang also sold Mongolian opium. This latter opium was brought in from Mongolia by rail, plane and boat. Most of it, however, came by planes owned and operated by the China Aviation Company ( ) This Mongolian opium was handled differently than the Persian opium.

The main office of the Ko-A-In in Tokyo informed the Mongolian Government of the requirements of opium needed by the various branch offices of the Ko-A-In. The Mongolian Government shipped the opium to Peiping, which was the central distribution point for North China, and to Shanghai, which was the central distribution point for Central and Southern China. From each of these two central distribution points, the opium was shipped to other cities within each of these areas. When the opium arrived from Mongolia, it was stored in Government godowns. The Hung Chi Shan Tang received a permit from the Opium Amelioration Bureau to remove the opium from the godowns. The Hung Chi Shan Tang then took this opium to inspection offices created by the Opium Amelioration Bureau, where it was packaged, sorted and tax stamps placed thereon. The Hung Chi Shan Tang sold the Mongolian opium at a price representing the cost of the opium to the Mongolian Government, plus transportation and insurance charges, plus the duties and taxes determined by the Opium Amelioration Bureau, plus a commission of not exceeding 8% for the Hung Chi Shan Tang. The Ko-A-In determined the cost price paid to the Mongolian Government. The policy of the Ko-A-In was to make the profit for the Mongolian Government as great as possible. The profit made by the Hung-Chi-Shan-Tang on the Persian opium totalled about \$20,000,000, which was paid to the Tokumu Bu when it was in existence, and later to the Ko-A-In. The policies of opium distribution were determined by the Nanking Government and the Ko-A-In. The policy was based on (1) revenue for the Mongolian Government, and (2) the Nanking Government. The demand for opium was always greater than the supply. In a practical sense there was no positive suppression of the use of opium.



Both the Opium Amelioration Bureau and the Hung Chi Shan Tang organized a Preventive Service Corps. Its purpose was to prevent smuggling and smoking of illegal opium.

Towards the end of 1943 there were many anti-opium demonstrations put on by students and the more educated class of people. This gave me an opportunity to resign, and with the permission of the Nanking Government and the Ko-A-In, I did resign.

The peak of opium sold by the Hung Chi Shan Tang occurred in 1941. Altogether, while I do not recall exactly how much opium I did sell, I estimate that it was about 4,000 chests of Persian opium and about 10,000,000 liang of Mongolian opium. At no time were there any statistics on the number of opium users.

The Hung Chi Shan Tang never engaged in the manufacture or distribution of heroin or morphine. However, I do believe that a considerable amount of heroin was smuggled into Shanghai from Darien and Tientsin. It was used by the people who did not have sufficient money to purchase opium for smoking.

(S) Hajime Satomi  
SATOMI, HAJIME

Sworn to and subscribed by the  
above-named SATOMI, Hajime before  
the undersigned officer at Tokyo,  
Japan, this 28 day of June  
1946.

(S) John T. Hamel  
Major, J.A.G. C.

C E R T I F I C A T E .

I, Cecil E. Uyehara, HEREBY CERTIFY That I am fully conversant with the Japanese and English languages, and that I, this day, read the foregoing Affidavit to the above-named SATOMI, Hajime in Japanese, and in so doing, truly and correctly translated the contents thereof from English into Japanese; and that said SATOMI, Hajime stated to me that the contents of said Affidavit were the truth, and that he was willing to sign said Affidavit under oath; and that said SATOMI, Hajime was duly sworn in my presence and signed said Affidavit under oath in my presence; and that all proceedings incidental to the administration of said oath and the signing of said Affidavit were truly and correctly translated from Japanese into English and English into Japanese and fully understood and comprehended by said Affiant.

Dated this 28 day of June, 1946, at Tokyo, Japan.

(S) Cecil E. Uyehara